

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Gordon et al, USPN 6,740,007. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, Gordon et al. is available as a reference only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as of its filing date of August 3, 2001. However, the filing date of the Gordon et al. reference is not prior to the filing date of Japanese Priority Document 2001-65171, which was filed on March 8, 2001.

In order to perfect the claim to priority in the present application, attached hereto for the Examiner's consideration is a Verified Translation of the Japanese Priority Document No. 2001-65171. In view of the Verified Translation of the Japanese Priority Document, Applicant respectfully submits that the Gordon et al. reference is no longer available as a reference against the present application. In view of this, the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

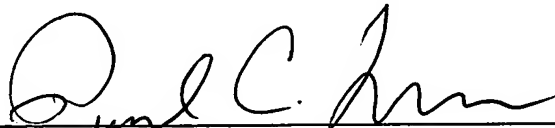
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Paul C. Lewis
Reg. No. 43,368

PCL/cl

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000